

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2009 Annual Award Program
NEWS RELEASE



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WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECEIVES HIGH HONOR AT MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION

St. Paul, Minn.—The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has awarded Washington Conservation District with the **2009 Conservation District of the Year Award**. The award was presented at the 73rd annual MASWCD convention, held Dec.6-8 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, in Duluth, Minnesota.

Each year MASWCD honors a conservation district for standing out as a leader among the State's 91 soil and water conservation districts. The award is based on a number of factors including conservation program delivery, training for staff and supervisors, communication with the public, media and other partners, and involvement in MASWCD and its committees.

"We're honored to be recognized for this award," said Louise Smallidge, Chair of the Washington Conservation District (WCD). Smallidge is also one of three Soil and Water Conservation District representatives from across the state serving on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and was recognized in 2007 with the MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor Award.

Situated in a rapidly urbanizing area of the state, Washington County also remains an active agricultural area, which together poses a wide range of challenges to the soil and water quality of the county. WCD has not only been tackling these challenges within the county, but they have also been working with neighboring districts on a larger watershed basin level to address water quality in the St. Croix River Basin.

In accepting the award on behalf of the district, Jay Riggs, WCD manager, credited the success of their district to their devoted board of supervisors and to their tremendously talented group of employees. The district's employees have earned valuable credentials including Minnesota Wetland Delineator Certification, Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control™, Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality™, Certified Erosion, Sediment & Storm Water Inspector™, and licensed Professional Soil Scientist.

MASWCD congratulates the Washington Conservation District supervisors and employees for their hard work and leadership. For more information on WCD, please visit www.mnwcd.org.

MASWCD is a non-profit organization that represents the Soil and Water Conservation Districts across Minnesota. For more information about MASWCD and SWCDs, please visit www.maswcd.org.

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